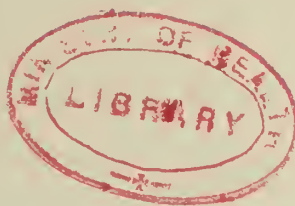


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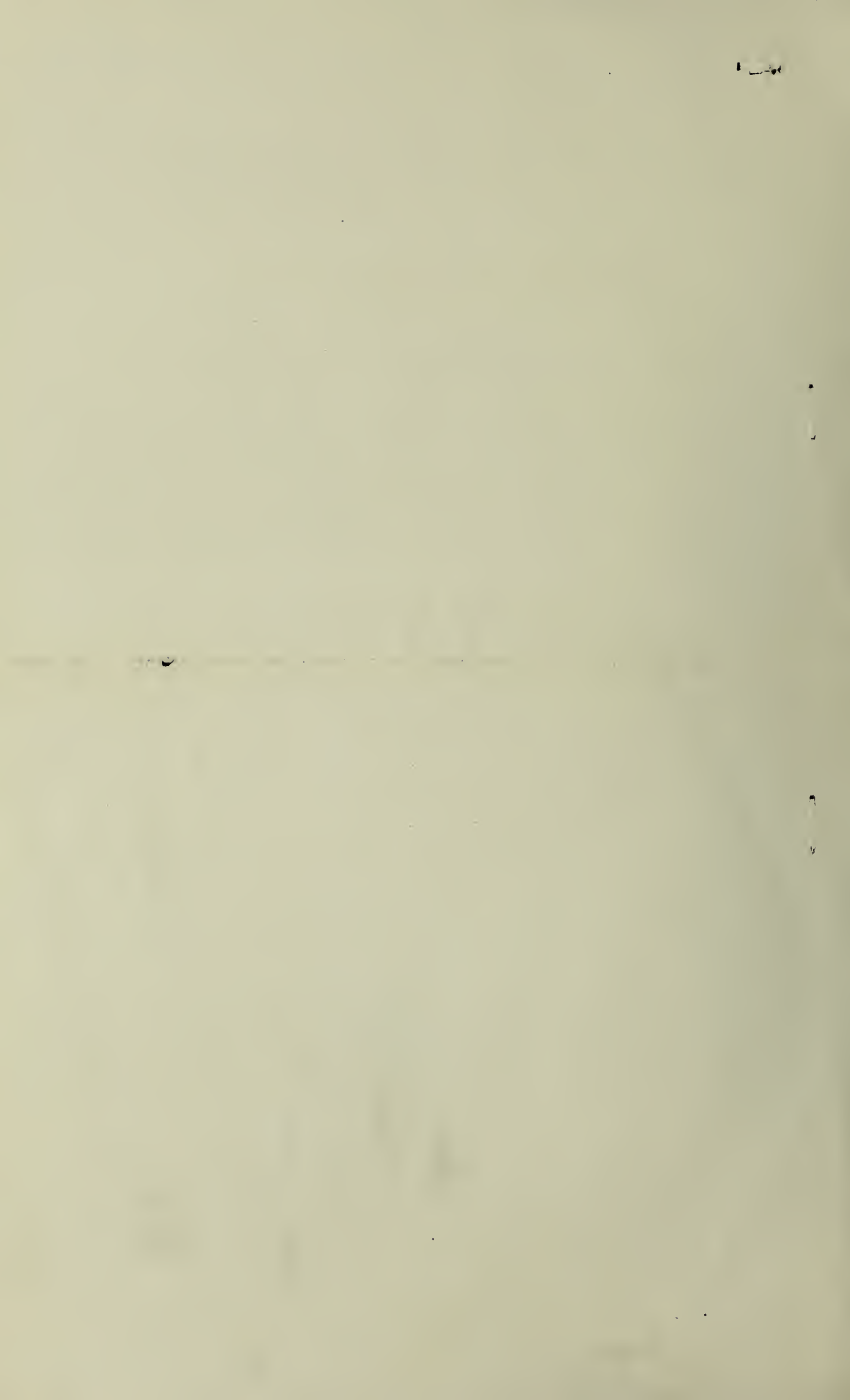
ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1938.



REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the Year 1938.

To the Chairman & Members of the
Bingham Rural District Council.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District for the Year 1938.

On the completion of my first full year as your Medical Officer of Health my dominant thought is of the vast amount of work waiting to be done, towards the accomplishment of which the year's work seems to have contributed so little. The international situation, distracting as it has been to Local Authorities and their officials, is not alone to blame. Each year sees fresh legislation, with new duties, and as the standard of living rises the demands on the Sanitary Authorities increase so that the permissive powers of the past become definite obligations.

The multiplicity of duties in an area such as this, along with the scattered nature of the population, makes the incidental consumption of the Sanitary Inspector's time tremendous. Clerical work, too, occupies much of his time when he might be out on the district. When one adds to these factors the claims of meat inspection (occupying the greater part of two days each week) one realises how little time is left for the inspection of property and milk production. To attempt to deal systematically with two or three parishes means the neglect of all the others and the complaint is often heard that demands are being made on some owners while others are never visited.

With the coming into force of the 1937 Factories Act in July, 1938, and the new Food and Drugs Act in October of this year - the latter especially imposing fresh demands on the time of the Sanitary Inspector - the time has come, I submit, for a review of the work of the Health Department so that the time of the officials may be occupied to the best advantage. Such a review would, I am sure, reveal that after the routine recurring duties are met too little time is left for fresh inspections.

Besides the legislation already mentioned, the year under review saw the passing of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act which, although largely of a financial character, is of special interest to Rural Authorities in that it makes inducements towards the building of houses for rural workers. The provisions of the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts have been extended for another four years.

These were the principal legislative changes of the year so far as Public Health is concerned. The Agriculture Act, which came into force in April, 1938, transferred most of the work of veterinary inspection from the County Council to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. One effect locally was the cessation of slaughtering under the Tuberculosis Order in this area, with a welcome release of the Sanitary Inspector's time.

In housing, considerable progress was made towards meeting the programme under the Acts of 1930 and 1935. So far as "slum clearance" is concerned, however, the programme was by no means comprehensive and its completion should merely be the starting point for fresh activities.

It is questionable if the informal method of dealing with housing defects and reconditioning, with its time-consuming ways and long delays, is the right one in every case. It has advantages but with only one Inspector and so much work to be done it is difficult to justify it as a regular procedure.

Little has been accomplished under the Rural Workers Acts. The small owner seems afraid of it and prefers the minimum of improvements carried out in agreement between the Sanitary Inspector, the builder, and himself. It is difficult to define his objections, he seems just to feel that it is something too big and incomprehensible for him.

The need for a piped supply of water to the remaining twenty parishes is generally appreciated - and in some quarters insistently emphasised - and only the financial difficulty has to be met. Indiscriminate sampling of wells where no alternative supply is possible has not been carried out, but in every case where, for some reason or other, a sample has been taken the analysis has been unsatisfactory. No doubt the people have become used to their own well water - in those cases where it is actually consumed unboiled - but as I pointed out last year a shallow well is always a potential source of trouble if a disease carrier should contaminate it. The question of the effect of polluted well water on evacuated children - and also, of course, the chance of disease carriers arriving and polluting the wells - is engaging the attention of Health Authorities just now. One hopes that the experiment will never be made, but if it is then it should be a general instruction to boil all well water, for otherwise there would almost certainly be a good deal of alimentary disorder and there would be such a demand on the time of the Medical Officer of Health in other directions that all avoidable distractions must be prevented.

It is to be regretted that so little time has been available for the inspection of cow-sheds. To be effective it is work that should be done regularly and, ideally, two visits ought to be paid to every farm each year. Apart from structural alterations the work is largely advisory and producers appreciate an opportunity of discussing their problems. No better means exist of assessing attainment and enlisting the interest of the producer in clean milk production than regular sampling for bacteriological examination, but we are a long way from the ideal in this area. While the number of producers of designated milk is increasing one would like to see the ordinary producer attaining the standard demanded for accredited milk.

I have discussed the incidence of infectious disease and its control in the appropriate section of my report.

During the year the Council considered the proposal to form a Health Committee and in March of the present year such a Committee was established. When the distractions of Air Raid Precautions grow less, and the work of the Council and their officers returns to normal, more detailed consideration of the work of the Health Department will be possible than was the case before a full Council of forty-four members.

3.

The Council have now lost the services of Mr. Eckersley, their Sanitary Inspector, and although his resignation did not take effect until the end of March of this year it is fitting to record it in this report. During his term of office Mr. Eckersley did good work for the Council and such was his cheerful and ready co-operation that his departure was to me a matter of regret.

This report deals largely with Mr. Eckersley's work and I have to thank him for preparing the required figures. I have also to thank Mr. Kendrick, the Surveyor, for his ready help throughout the year and for supplying the information contained in those sections of this report which bear on the work of his department.

I am,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

WM. B. WATSON.

June, 1939.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health.	W.B. Watson, L.R.C.P. L.R.C.S., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector.	J. Eckersley, A.R.S.I., R.P.
Surveyor.	C.W. Kendrick, Cert. R.S.I. M.I. Mun. & Cy.E.

STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of District.	67,583 acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1938	16,290.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938)	4,711.
Rateable Value	75,858.
Product of penny rate per annum	£281.
Persons per family at 1931 census	3.6.

Agriculture is the principal work done in the District but there are Cement Works at Barnstone and Plaster Works at Cropwell Bishop. Owing to the proximity to Nottingham a large number of people live in the Western part of the District who work in the City and considerable development is taking place in these parishes.

Unemployment is individual in nature and small in aggregate.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
	212	113	99
Legitimate	201	107	94
Illegitimate	11	6	5
Birth rate (per 1,000 population) 13. 0 (England & Wales 15.1)			
Stillbirths (all legitimate)	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
	2	2	-
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births 9.3.			
do. (per 1,000 population) 0.12 (England & Wales 0.60).			
Deaths	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
	175	85	90.
Death Rate (per 1,000 population) 10.7 (England & Wales 11.6).			
Deaths from puerperal causes			Nil.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS (CONT.)

Death rate of infants under one year of age :-

All infants per 1,000 live births 38 (England & Wales 53).

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 40.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births Nil.

Deaths from Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	30.
" " Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
" " Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.

The following table presents for comparison some of the Vital Statistics of the District, and of the Country as a whole, for the past 10 years.

Year	Live Births.			Deaths.				Infant Mortality.	
	Total Number	Rate per 1000 Population.	England & Wales	Total Number	Crude rate per 1000 Population.	England & Wales	Corrected Rate.	Rate per 1000 Population	England and Wales.
1929	218	14.7	16.3	228	15.4	13.4	12.6	78	74
1930	208	13.7	16.3	158	10.4	11.4	8.5	29	60
1931	207	13.4	15.8	196	12.7	12.3	10.4	43	66
1932	204	13.1	15.3	175	11.3	12.0	9.3	53	65
1933	223	14.3	14.4	195	12.5	12.3	10.2	36	64
1934	209	13.3	14.8	201	12.8	11.8	10.5	43	59
1935	208	13.2	14.7	191	12.1	11.7	9.9	58	57
1936	185	11.7	14.8	187	11.8	12.1	9.7	59	59
1937	193	12.0	14.9	218	13.5	12.4	11.1	26	58
1938	212	13.0	15.1	175	10.7	11.6	8.8	38	53

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS (CONT.)

The Crude Death Rate is calculated on the number of registered deaths after deducting those of persons normally residing elsewhere and adding those of local residents who died outside the District. The Corrected Death Rate is the crude rate multiplied by the Areal Comparability Factor (0.82) supplied by the Registrar-General. This factor is calculated by the Registrar-General for each area in the Country and its use is to modify the death rate to make it more fairly comparable with the rates of other areas and the Country as a whole. In calculating the factor, the Registrar applies to each area the same sex and age distribution of the population as obtained in the total population of the Country at the last Census.

Birth Rate (13.0).

There were 19 more births than in the previous year, giving a rise in the rate of 1.0. This occurring in a year of specially few deaths gives a favourable balance in the rates of 2.3.

Death Rate (10.7).

There were 43 fewer deaths in 1938 than in 1937 and the death rate (like that for England and Wales) is the lowest but one in the last 10 years. The greatest reduction were in deaths from kidney disease, heart disease, and influenza. There were no deaths from influenza in 1938 whereas in 1937 there were 11.

Infant Mortality (38).

While there is a rise of 12 compared with the previous year it is still a low rate and 12 below the average for the previous ten years.

Maternal Mortality.

Again there were no Maternal deaths.

Population.

Registrar-General's estimate (mid-1938)	16,290.
Calculated on the number of inhabited houses at 31st December, 1938, (4711), taking the average number of persons per house as 3.6 as ascertained at the 1931 Census	16,959.

The Registrar-General's estimate is an increase of 190 on that of the previous year.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.Laboratory Facilities.

Through arrangement with the County Council the Nottingham City Laboratory is available for the examination of pathological specimens.

Ambulance Facilities.

During the year the Council entered into an agreement with the St. John Ambulance Brigade to provide ambulance facilities throughout their District for (1) persons seriously injured and (2) persons acutely and seriously ill and urgently requiring hospital treatment (except maternity and infectious cases). Those in a position to do so are required to reimburse the Council.

In the case of infectious disease, either the admitting hospital sends an ambulance or the loan of one from Basford is sought.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE
AREA (CONT.).

Nursing in the Home.

District Nurses are available in most of the Parishes.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The County Council provide the following Clinics in the Area:-

<u>Village.</u>	<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Child Welfare.</u>	<u>Ante-Natal.</u>
Bingham.	Market Street.	Weekly (Friday morning).	Monthly (Friday afternoon).
Cotgrave.	Parish Hall.	Fortnightly (Thursday afternoon).	Monthly (Thursday afternoon).
East Bridgford.	Women's Institute.	Fortnightly (Thursday afternoon).	Nil.
Flintham.	The Reading Room.	Fortnightly (Tuesday afternoon).	Monthly (Tuesday afternoon).
Hickling.	Methodist Schoolroom.	Fortnightly (Wednesday afternoon).	Monthly (Wednesday afternoon).
Langar.	The Institute Barnstone.	Fortnightly (Tuesday morning).	Monthly (Tuesday morning).
Plumtree.	Memorial Hall.	Fortnightly (Tuesday afternoon).	Monthly (Friday afternoon).
Radcliffe.	Methodist Chapel.	Fortnightly Thursday afternoon).	Monthly (Tuesday morning).

School Clinics.

Radcliffe-on-Trent, Co-operative Hall, twice weekly (Monday and Thursday mornings).

The County Tuberculosis Dispensary at Ellesmere House, Clarendon Street, Nottingham, is available for residents in the Bingham area.

Similarly, facilities are available in Nottingham for the treatment of venereal disease (by the County's arrangement with the City of Nottingham) and orthopaedic defects in children.

Hospitals.

There are no General Hospitals nor Isolation Hospitals in the area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.Table showing the Sanitary Arrangements in the District.

	Parish.	Popu- lation 1931.	Sewerage & Sewage Disposal Works.	Drainage.	Corp- orat- ion Water.	Full Scav- enging Scheme.	Removal of Hard Refuse.
1.	Aslockton.	363		Portion of Village well sewered.	Yes.		Every 4 mnths.
2.	Bingham.	1587		Brick cul- verts and ordinary sewers.	Yes.	Yes.	Monthly.
3.	Bridgford East.	747	Yes.		Yes.		Every 3 mnths.
4.	Broughton Sulney.	265		Good sewers.			do.
5.	Car Colston.	197		Mainly open dykes.	Yes.		Every 6 mnths.
6.	Clipstone.	66		Sewered.			do.
7.	Colston Bassett.	283		do.			do.
8.	Cotgrave.	681		Large Brick culverts.	Yes.		do.
9.	Cropwell Bishop.	573		do.	Yes.	Yes.	do.
10.	Cropwell Butler.	517		do.	Yes.	Yes.	do.
11.	Elton.	82		Sewered.			
12.	Flawborough.	57		do.			
13.	Flintham.	285		Good Main sewer.			Every 6 mnths.
14.	Gamston.	104		Sewered.	Portion.		
15.	Granby.	280		do.			Every 6 mnths.
16.	Hawksworth.	124		do.			do.
17.	Hickling.	394		do.			do.
18.	Holme Pierrepont.	220		No main sewer.		Yes.	Every 3 mnths.
19.	Keyworth.	975	Portion.	Sewered.	Yes.	Yes.	Every 4 mnths.
20.	Kinoulton.	285		do.	Yes.		Every 6 mnths.
21.	Kneeton.	114		do.			do.
22.	Langar.	469		do.			do.
23.	Normanton.	494	Portion.	do.	Yes.		do.
24.	Orston.	334		do.	Yes.		do.
25.	Owthorpe.	99		do.			
26.	Plumtree.	213		do.	Yes.		Every 6 mnths.
27.	Radcliffe- on-Trent.	3449	Yes.		Yes.	Yes.	Monthly.
28.	Saxondale.	96		No main sewer.	Yes.		
29.	Scarrington.	162		Sewered.	Yes.		Every 6 mnths.
30.	Screveton.	103		do.			do.
31.	Shelford.	370		do.			do.
32.	Shelton.	92		do.			do.
33.	Sibthorpe.	93		No main sewer.			
34.	Stanton-on- the-Wolds.	107		do.	Yes.		Every 6 mnths.
35.	Thoroton.	105		Sewered.			do.
36.	Tithby.	87		No main sewer.			do.
37.	Tollerton.	127	Portion.	Sewered.	Yes.		Every 3 mnths.
38.	Whatton.	327		do.	Yes.		Every 6 mnths.
39.	Widmerpool.	151		do.			
40.	Wiverton.	29		No main sewer.			
			5		20	5	32

With the exception of the parishes which have disposal works, most of the sewers discharge into open field dykes (after passing through catch pits to collect sediment and solids).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA (CONT.)

Water.

There have been no further extensions of mains but the possible extension to all or most of the remaining parishes has been given serious consideration.

The position of the parishes as regards water supply is shown below.

Piped Supply.

Aslockton.
Bingham.
East Bridgford.
Car Colston.
Cotgrave.
Cropwell Bishop.
Cropwell Butler.
Gamston (part).
Holme Pierrepont (part)
Keyworth.
Kinoulton.
Normanton.
Orston.
Plumtree.
Radcliffe-on-Trent.
Saxondale.
Scarrington.
Stanton-on-the-Wolds.
Tollerton.
Whatton.

Without a Piped Supply.

Broughton Sulney.
Clipstone.
Colston Bassett.
Elton.
Flawborough.
Flintham.
Granby.
Hawksworth.
Hickling.
Kneeton.
Langar.
Owthorpe.
Screveton.
Shelford.
Shelton.
Sibthorpe.
Thoroton.
Tithby.
Widmerpool.
Wiverton.

The water supplied by the Nottingham Corporation has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. No samples are taken in the District for bacteriological analysis. I am indebted to the Nottingham City Water Engineer for the following typical analysis of the water supplied to this area.

"25th February, 1939.

Analysis of Water supplied to portion
of Bingham Rural District.

This sample contains per 100,000 parts:-

Total solids dried at 180°C.	18.00.
Suspended matter.	absent.
Chlorides as chlorine.	1.42.
Oxidised nitrogen as nitrate.	trace.
Oxidised nitrogen as nitrite.	absent.
Free ammonia.	absent.
Albuminoid ammonia.	absent.
Temporary hardness.	14.00.
Permanent hardness.	2.0
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	Nil.
pH value.	8.20
Appearance.	clear and bright.
Odour.	Nil
Taste and Colour.	normal.
No. of colonies developing per ml. on agar at 21°C. in 72 hrs.	2.
No. of colonies developing per ml. on agar at 37°C. in 24 hrs.	0.
No. of colonies developing per ml. on agar at 37°C. in 48 hrs.	0.
Coli-aerogenes count per 100 mls. on agar at 37°C. in 48 hrs.	0.
Bascillus coli (presumptive).	absent in 200 c.c."

This sample is of good quality.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA (CONT.)

Water (cont.).

The district generally affords a ready supply of water to wells. But the well water is very hard and residents rely on rain water for everything except drinking and cooking and, indeed, it is used sometimes for culinary purposes. The hardness is mostly permanent and due to the presence of gypsum. Few complaints of pollution are received even when it is obvious to the unaided senses. Regular consumers grow accustomed to polluted water and appear to suffer no ill from it but, of course, they are liable to the consequences of an influx to the wells of specific contamination. Fortunately most of these shallow wells each supply only a small number of people so that any outbreak of disease would tend to be circumscribed. There are, however, still some public wells in use and so long as these require to be used the purity of the supply must be a matter of more serious consideration. Their use is necessary where there is no piped supply but unfortunately one has to record that in the parishes where mains have been laid property owners have not all made use of the new supply.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The following lengths of new sewer were laid during the year:-

Normanton	-	236 yds. of 6" sewer.
Granby	-	100 yds. of 6" sewer.
Keyworth	-	124 yds. of 6" sewer.

The projected disposal works for the parishes of Keyworth, Normanton, Plumtree and Stanton, referred to in last year's Report, are still under consideration.

Complaints of nuisance from sewer dykes are received from time to time and every effort is made to deal with these. In some cases trade waste is the cause and more care on the part of the owners is all that is required, but often the nuisance arises through the proximity of houses to the dykes carrying domestic sewage and only culverting of the dykes for a further distance would eliminate cause for complaint. Sometimes farmers complain of difficulty in obtaining drinking water for their cattle where formerly the dykes were used. So long as the dykes are used to convey sewage the only remedy is the sinking of wells or the provision of a piped supply where that is obtainable.

Rivers and Streams.

Where the distance between source and stream is adequate the effluent from the sewage dykes gives no cause for complaint. In all the parishes every effort is made to discharge an effluent which is innocuous but, short of disposal works, there must in some instances continue to be grounds for dissatisfaction.

Closet Accommodation.

In previous years figures have been supplied in respect of Radcliffe-on-Trent alone because it has been the only parish with a complete sewerage scheme. Now East Bridgford has disposal works and in some other parishes, in spite of the absence of a complete scheme, more conversions are being carried out. The number of conversions for the whole of the Rural District for 1938 is 38, of which 3 belong to Radcliffe. There remain in Radcliffe 17 conservancy closets of which 16 are accessible to sewers.

Public Cleansing.

There is no material change to report.

In 50 instances fixed receptacles were replaced by moveable dustbins.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is the Tabular Statement required to be furnished by the Sanitary Inspector to the Medical Officer of Health under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Re-inspections.</u>
Dwellinghouses	190	691
Nuisances	59	144
Fumigation	29	-
Cowsheds	111	180
Slaughter-houses	742	-
Retail meat etc.	468	-
Food prepared	416	-
	<u>2015</u>	<u>1015</u>

1. Total number of complaints received or registered 194.
2. Total number of inspections made ... 3030.
3. Total number of nuisances and defects dealt with 224.
4. Total number of notices served during the year:-
 - (a) Informal 168.
 - (b) Statutory 37.
5. Total number of notices complied with during the year:-
 - (a) Informal 164.
 - (b) Statutory 17.
6. Total number of re-inspections or re-visits included in 2 above ... 644.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public swimming baths, nor private pools open to the public, in the area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Infestation of two houses was found. The houses are now scheduled for demolition.

Schools.

These are inspected and reported upon to the County Medical Officer by the Assistant Medical Officers on the occasion of medical inspection of the children. The sanitary arrangements, although sometimes primitive and undesirable, are usually as good as local circumstances permit. Absence of running water, lack of drying facilities for wet clothes, and inadequate lighting are the other defects most commonly noted.

Camping Sites.

1. No. of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1938 - 2.
 2. No. of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 - 2.
 3. Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, 1938, approximately 50.
- Besides these recognised camps, tents and trailer caravans appear in various places for a night or two during the summer.

There are also some 25 vans and sheds occupied by human beings in various parts of the District. Some of these are undesirable and it would be well, in future, to control the use of these structures at the start by compelling the submission of plans or by prosecution for breach of the law.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA (CONT.)Factories.

The Factories Act of 1937 came into force on 1st July, 1938. The old distinction between a factory and a workshop practically disappears and the duties of the Sanitary Inspector are now more clearly defined. The Local Authority are now required to issue certificates as regards safety in case of fire and as regards suitability of the drinking water.

Nine inspections were made and 6 defects found, of which all were subsequently abated.

One application was received for a Certificate of fitness of the drinking water. A sample was taken which gave an unsatisfactory analysis and the Certificate was withheld. No alternative supply was available.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

By the Local Authority	...	...	...	4.
By private enterprise	...	...	...	75.

The 4 houses erected by the Local Authority were for general needs.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:-

- | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | ... | ... | ... | 190. |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | ... | ... | ... | 529. |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. | ... | ... | ... | 154. |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | ... | ... | ... | 162. |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | ... | ... | ... | 37. |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | ... | ... | ... | 128. |

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	84.
---	-----	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-

- | | |
|---|------|
| (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:- | |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | Nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices | - |
| (a) By owners | - |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | - |

HOUSING (CONT.)3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year (cont.)

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied -.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices -.
- (a) By owners -.
- (b) By Local Authority -.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 28.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 16.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 1.
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having having been rendered fit -.

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV - Overcrowding:-

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 19.
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein 21.
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 140.
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 2.
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 2.
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases 17.
- (d) Cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding -.

Overcrowding, as judged by superficial area, is uncommon in the district but adequate separation of the sexes is often difficult or impossible and, apart from the common lack of privacy, this form of overcrowding arises insidiously in the natural course of events and may be overlooked unless complaint is made.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

<u>Milk Supply.</u>	<u>Milk</u> <u>Retail-</u>	<u>Milk</u> <u>Produc-</u>
	<u>ers.</u>	<u>ers.</u>
Number on the Register on 1st Jany. 1938.	182	387.
Number added to Register during the year.	-	5.
Number removed from Register during the year.	-	2.
Number on the Register on 31st Dec. 1938.	182	390.
Number of inspections.	15	111.
Number of defects or unsatisfactory conditions)		
observed.)	-	129.
do. do. remedied	-	68.
The removals from the Register were on account of ceasing to produce.		

No samples of milk were taken for analysis.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD (CONT.)

Milk Supply (cont.)

So far as time has permitted, inspections of dairy farms have been made and gratifying improvements carried out in some. Very few of the buildings in the district have been originally constructed for dairy farming and the farmer has just to make the best of a bad job. He is usually keen to produce good milk but the owner may not be keen to spend money on the place. Often there are mortgages. There are few model dairy farms in the district but if one can get the standard of the Milk and Dairies Order attained and a good water supply made available, only the human factor remains in the production of clean milk. Indeed this is the dominant factor, for one finds clean milkers in bad premises and dirty ones in good. The health of the cows, of course, although outside the province of the District Medical Officer, is ever present in his mind. One cannot combine the duties of meat inspection and milk control without realising the problem we have to face in attaining a milk free from the germs of disease. One would like to see more real dairies constructed, where the milk could be cooled and the utensils sterilised by steam.

Meat Inspection.

Number of Slaughter-houses on 1st January 1938:				
Registered				18.
Licensed annually				13.
Number of new premises licensed during the year				Nil.
Number of licenses revoked during the year ...				Nil.
Number on register on 31st December, 1938:				
Registered				18.
Licensed				13.
Number of inspections of Slaughter-houses ...				742.
Number of defects or unsatisfactory conditions observed:-				
Defective drainage				2.
Number of these remedied				2.
Number of occasions when slaughtering took place				1148.
Number of visits to Slaughter-houses for meat inspection)				742.
Number of animals inspected before slaughter				Nil.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	<u>Cattle</u> <u>all kinds.</u>	<u>Sheep &</u> <u>Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
<u>Number Inspected.</u>	745 ^x	1085	591
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>			
Whole carcasses condemned	17	9	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	70	12	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	12	2	1
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>			
Whole carcasses condemned	17 ^ø	Nil	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	101	Nil	13
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	17	-	2

^x Includes 12 slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order.

^ø Includes 8 slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD (CONT.)Meat Inspection (cont.).

Total weight of meat condemned as a result of these inspections 18,110 lbs. Of this, 3,903 lbs. was in respect of slaughtering under the Tuberculosis Order.

Inspection of Meat on Retail Sale.

Total number of inspections of shops, stalls, vehicles or places where meat is retailed ... 468.

No meat was condemned at these inspections.

General advice was given when necessary in regard to the condition of the premises or vehicles.

Inspection of other Foods.

Number of inspections of shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is prepared ... 416.

General advice was given.

No food was condemned.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The notifications of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria showed an increase compared with 1937, the former by 77 per cent., and the latter by 100 per cent. There was no epidemic in the district.

As usual, cases of tonsillitis were associated with the cases of Scarlet Fever.

Where possible home isolation of cases of Scarlet Fever is practised. The hospitals to which patients were sent discharge uncomplicated cases in three or four weeks. In this area where the distance between hospital and home is usually great, where the home conditions may not be suitable, and where a follow-up system is impossible, it is doubtful if it is wise to discharge patients before the end of the fourth week. Much depends, of course, on how the hospital is placed as regards segregation of types and stages.

The Diphtheria was of the mild type. Precautionary administration of antitoxin seems to be generally practised in the district. There is no public scheme of immunisation against Diphtheria.

Along with an absence of Influenza there was a big reduction in the notifications of Pneumonia. Five of the ten notified cases occurred in the Mental Hospital.

The position as regards Isolation Hospital accommodation remains the same as last year, although efforts to obtain a suitable site for the Joint Hospital have been made throughout the year. The difficulty in obtaining accommodation for only one patient is so great that one hopes that the past freedom from epidemics will continue until the new hospital is available. However much concerned one was about the situation previously an influx of children from the towns in the event of war seems truly appalling in its possibilities, for home isolation would be difficult or impossible, so that not only are we threatened with an increase of infectious disease, but at the same time we would be deprived of our present scanty resources in dealing with it. There seems so little prospect of the new hospital being built within the next year or two that the provision of temporary accommodation would probably become a necessity in the event of war.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (CONT.)

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1938.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Smallpox	--	--	--
Scarlet Fever ...	23	11	--
Diphtheria	6	5	--
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	--	--	--
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	--	--
Pneumonia	10	Unknown	7*
Erysipelas	1	--	--
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	--	--
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	In Mental Hospital.	--

* This is the Registrar-General's figure for total deaths from all forms of Pneumonia and does not necessarily represent 7 of the 10 notified cases.

Analysis of Notified Cases according to Age Groups.

<u>Age Group.</u>	<u>Scarlet Fever.</u>	<u>Diphtheria.</u>	<u>Enteric Fever.</u>	<u>Puerperal Pyrexia.</u>	<u>Pneumonia.</u>	<u>Erysipelas.</u>	<u>Cerebro-spinal Fever.</u>
Below 1 year.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 -	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 -	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	8	1	-	-	-	-	-
10 -	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -	3	4	-	2	4	-	1
35 -	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
Totals	23	6	-	2	10	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS.New Cases and Mortality.

The following Table is set out in the form prescribed by the Ministry of Health.

Age periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
5-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
25-	1	5	-	-	-	2	-	-
35-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
55-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	7	10	2	-	2	2	-	2

The two female deaths from non-respiratory disease were those of unnotified cases of meningitis. No other unnotified cases were found during the year, the ratio of unnotified deaths to total tuberculosis deaths being 1 : 3.

Eight of the notifications were received from the Mental Hospital. Most of the deaths occurring in that Institution are transferable to other districts so that it is difficult to relate the death rate from tuberculosis in the District to the incidence rate.

At the end of the year there were 61 names on the register compared with 48 at the end of the previous year.

Incidence Rate, all forms	1.17 per 1000 population (England & Wales 1.46).
Death Rate, all forms	0.37 per 1000 population (England & Wales 0.69).